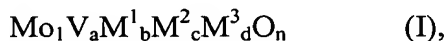


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A multimetal oxide material of the stoichiometry I



where

$\text{M}^1$  is at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Te and Sb;

$\text{M}^2$  is at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ti, W, Ta and Ce;

$\text{M}^3$  is at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Pb, Ni,  $\text{Co}$ , Bi, Pd, Ag, Pt, Cu, Au, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Re, Ir, Sm, Sc, Y, Pr, Nd and Tb;

a is from 0.01 to 1,

b is from > 0 to 1;

c is from > 0 to 1;

d is from > 0 to 0.5 and

n is a number which is determined by the valency and frequency of the elements

other than oxygen in (I),

whose X-ray diffraction pattern has reflections h, i and k whose peaks are at the

diffraction angles ( $2\theta$ )  $22.2 [^\circ] \pm 0.5^\circ$  (h),  $27.3 [^\circ] \pm 0.5^\circ$  (i) and  $28.2 [^\circ] \pm 0.5^\circ$

(k),

- the reflection h being the one with the strongest intensity within the X-ray diffraction pattern and having an FWHH of not more than  $0.5^\circ$ ,

- the intensity  $P_i$  of the reflection  $i$  and the intensity  $P_k$  of the reflection  $k$  fulfilling the relationship  $0.65 \leq R \leq 0.85$ , where  $R$  is the intensity ratio defined by the formula

$$R = P_i / (P_i + P_k)$$

and

the FWHH of the reflection  $i$  and of the reflection  $k$  being in each case  $\leq 1^\circ$ ,

wherein the at least one multimetal oxide material (I) is one whose X-ray diffraction pattern has no reflection with the peak  $i$  position  $[[2\theta]] \ 2\Theta = 50.0 \pm 0.3^\circ$ .

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $0.67 \leq R \leq 0.75$ .

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $0.69 \leq R \leq 0.75$ .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $0.71 \leq R \leq 0.74$ .

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R = 0.72$ .

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any of~~ ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein its specific surface area is from 11 to 40 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any of~~  
~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein its X-ray diffraction pattern also has further reflections with  
their peak positions at the following diffraction angles  $[[2\theta]]$   $2\theta$ :

$$9.0 \pm 0.4^\circ (1),$$

$$6.7 \pm 0.4^\circ (o) \text{ and}$$

$$7.9 \pm 0.4^\circ (p).$$

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim  
7, wherein its X-ray diffraction pattern also has further reflections with their peak positions at  
the following diffraction angles  $[[2\theta]]$   $2\theta$ :

$$45.2 \pm 0.4^\circ (q)$$

$$29.2 \pm 0.4^\circ (m) \text{ and}$$

$$35.4 \pm 0.4^\circ (n).$$

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim  
8, wherein, on the same intensity scale, the reflections h, i, l, m, n, o, p and q have the  
following intensities:

$$h = 100,$$

$$i = \text{from } 5 \text{ to } 95,$$

$$l = \text{from } 1 \text{ to } 30,$$

$$m = \text{from } 1 \text{ to } 40,$$

$$n = \text{from } 1 \text{ to } 40,$$

$$o = \text{from } 1 \text{ to } 30,$$

p = from 1 to 30 and

q = from 5 to 60.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein a is from 0.05 to 0.6.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein b is from 0.01 to 1.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein c is from 0.01 to 1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, wherein d is from 0.0005 to 0.5.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, wherein

a = is from 0.1 to 0.6;

b = is from 0.1 to 0.5;

c = is from 0.1 to 0.5 and

d = is from 0.001 to 0.5.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein M<sup>2</sup> comprises at least 50 mol%, based on its total weight,  
of Nb.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein  $M^2$  comprises at least 75 mol %, based on its total weight,  
of Nb.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein  $M^2$  is exclusively Nb.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1, wherein  $M^3$  is at least one element from the group consisting of Ni,  
Co, Bi, Pd, Ag, Au, Pb and Ga.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1, wherein  $M^3$  is at least one element from the group consisting of Ni,  
Co, Pd and Bi.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1, wherein  $M^1$  is Te,  $M^2$  is Nb and  $M^3$  is at least one element selected  
from the group consisting of Ni, Co and Pd.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A multimetal oxide material which contains at least  
one multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1 and whose X-ray  
diffraction pattern has no reflection with the peak position  $[[2\theta]] \ 2\theta = 50.0 \pm 0.3^\circ$ .

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~claims claim~~ 21, in which the multimetal oxide material (I) is present in a form diluted with at least one finely divided material from the group consisting of silica, titanium dioxide, alumina, zirconium oxide and niobium oxide.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A multimetal oxide material which comprises  $\geq 80\%$  by weight of at least one multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1 and whose X-ray diffraction pattern has a reflection with the peak position  $[[20]]$   $2\theta$   $=[[.]]50.0 \pm 0.3^\circ$ .

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A process for the heterogeneously catalyzed partial gas-phase ~~ammoxidation~~ oxidation of at least one saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon, wherein the catalytically active material used is at least one multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 23~~ claim 1.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the hydrocarbon is propane, propene or a mixture of propane and propene.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A process for the heterogeneously catalyzed partial gas-phase ~~ammoxidation~~ of at least one saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon, wherein the catalytically active material used is at least one multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 23~~ claim 1.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the hydrocarbon is propane, propene or a mixture of propane and propene.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of at least one multimetal oxide material as claimed in any of claims 1 to 23 as a catalyst for a heterogeneously catalyzed~~ A method for partial oxidation and/or ammoxidation of at least one saturated and/or unsaturated hydrocarbon comprising utilizing at least one multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1 as a catalyst.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a multimetal oxide material as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1, wherein a thorough dry mixture is produced from sources of the elemental constituents of multimetal oxide material, said mixture is calcined at from 350 to 700°C and the resulting product is washed with an aqueous solution of an organic and/or inorganic acid.

Claim 30 (New): The multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1, wherein d is from 0.003 to 0.5.

Claim 31 (New): The multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1, wherein d is from 0.004 to 0.5.

Claim 32 (New): The multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1, capable of converting 78 mol% or more of propane in a stream of propane, air in water in a ratio of 1:15:14 at a pressure of 2 bar absolute and a temperature of 350°C to form acrylic acid with a selectivity of 58 mol% or greater .

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Claim 33 (New): The multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1, capable of converting 73 mol% or more of propane in a stream of propane, air in water in a ratio of 1:15:14 at a pressure of 2 bar absolute and a temperature of 350°C to form acrylic acid with a selectivity of 58 mol% or greater .